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"When I returned the letter of May 17th, I made an endorsement across the first page, in regard to its genuineness, and attached my signature.

"I regret that I did not preserve a copy of the letter in question; but if the original is produced, it will appear that my recollection of its contents is correct.

"Very truly yours,
"JAMES C. WATSON,
"Director of the Observatory.

"*E. J. Stone, Esq.*,
"*Sec. of R.A.S.*
"*London, England.*"

I think that, after this letter, no one will be inclined to lay much stress upon Mr. Barker's reputed observations of May 4, 8, 9, and 10.

I may mention that, with his letter, Mr. Barker enclosed three letters purporting to be written by three gentlemen of position in London, Canada West; but these letters really only amounted to this, that the writers believed Mr. Barker to be a man of truthfulness and honour, and that he had said something to them about some new star somewhere in *Corona*, some time in an early part of May. Such vague statements really prove nothing.

In addition to the strong negative evidence of Dr. Schmidt, Mr. Baxendell, and others, particularly of Dr. Schmidt, that the variable was certainly not a conspicuous object to the naked eye previously to May 12, we have the remarkable fact that, on May 12 and the three following days, the variable was independently discovered by no less than seven different persons. With this fact before me, I cannot help believing that it would have been almost impossible for the star to have been overlooked from May 4 to May 12, had it then been as bright as stated by Mr. Barker.

I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that, in my opinion, Mr. Barker's observations previous to those made on May 14 are not entitled to the slightest credit.

The Annular Solar Eclipse of March 5–6, 1867.

By J. R. Hind, Esq.

The Astronomer Royal having suggested to me the expediency of circulating a map of the path of annular phase in the eclipse of 1867, March 5–6, the accompanying chart has been prepared by Mr. Farley from the elements of the eclipse given in the *Nautical Almanac*. It exhibits the limits of annularity from the western coast of Africa to the eastern part of Europe, and on an enlarged scale that portion of the path which crosses Italy.

The lines on the map were laid down from the following

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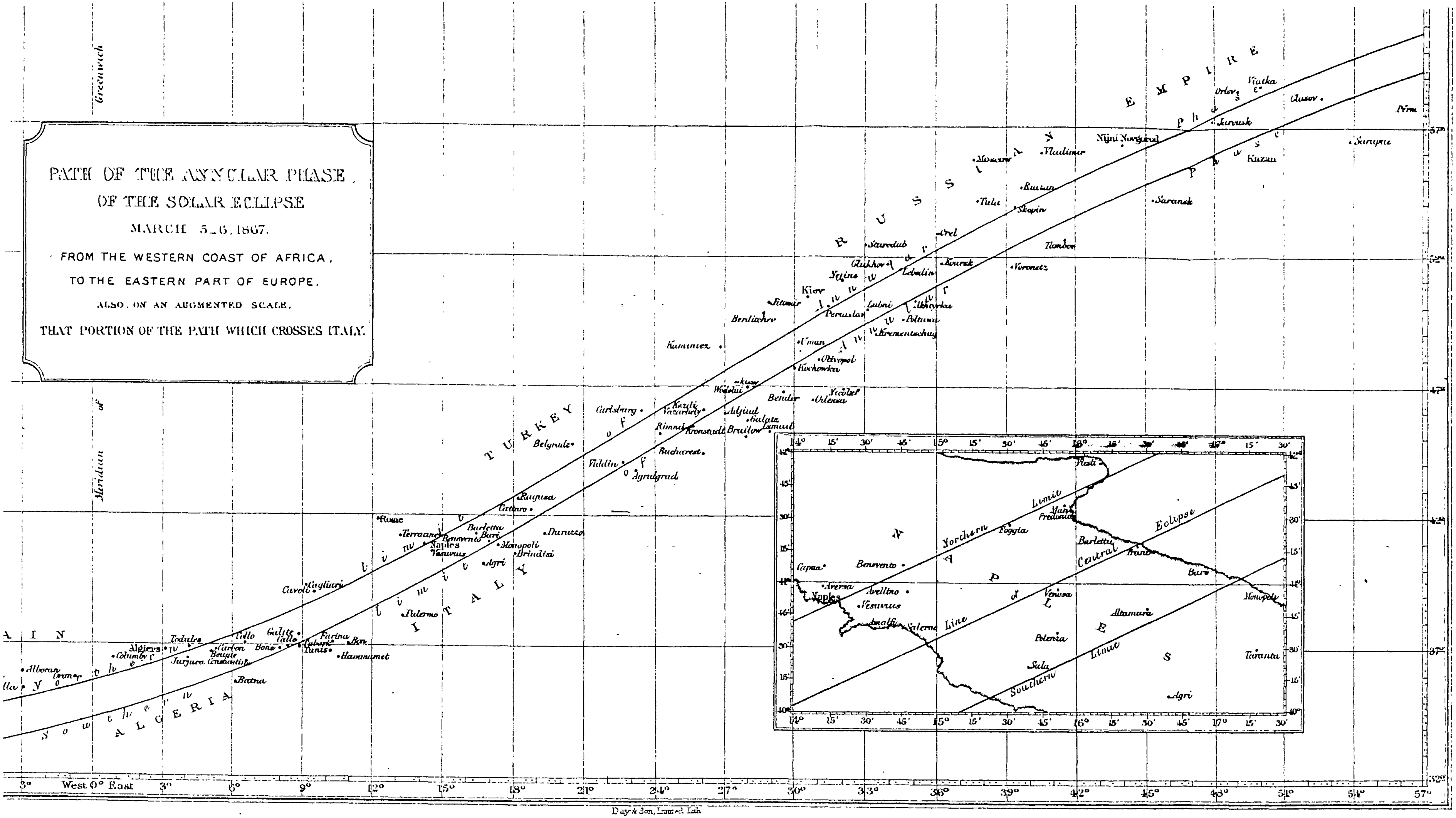
PATH OF THE ANNULAR PHASE, OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

MARCH 5–6, 1867.

FROM THE WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA,
TO THE EASTERN PART OF EUROPE.

ALSO, ON AN AUGMENTED SCALE,
THAT PORTION OF THE PATH WHICH CROSSES ITALY.



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calculated positions, adapted to the semi-diameters of the *Nautical Almanac*:—

Greenwich M.T.		Northern Limit.		Central Line.		Southern Limit.	
		Long.	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.	Lat.
1867.	h m	° ′	° ′	° ′	° ′	° ′	° ′
Mar. 5	20 48	W. 10 51	N. 33 45	W. 9 48	N. 33 10	W. 8 49	N. 32 34
	20 51	8 20	34 1	7 25	33 27	6 33	32 53
	20 54	6 7	34 19	5 18	33 46	4 32	33 13
	20 57	4 7	34 39	3 23	34 7	2 41	33 35
	21 0	2 18	35 1	W. 1 37	34 29	W. 0 58	33 58
	21 3	W. 0 35	35 24	E. 0 2	34 53	E. 0 38	34 22
	21 6	E. 1 0	35 48	1 35	35 18	2 9	34 48
	21 9	2 30	36 13	3 3	35 44	3 35	35 14
	21 12	3 55	36 40	4 27	36 11	4 58	35 41
	21 15	5 18	37 7	5 48	36 39	6 18	36 9
	21 18	6 37	37 35	7 6	37 7	7 35	36 38
	21 21	7 54	38 4	8 22	37 36	8 49	37 8
	21 24	9 9	38 35	9 36	38 6	10 2	37 38
	21 27	10 23	39 6	10 49	38 37	11 14	38 9
	21 30	11 36	39 38	12 0	39 9	12 24	38 41
	21 33	12 46	40 10	13 11	39 42	13 34	39 14
	21 36	13 57	40 43	14 20	40 15	14 43	39 47
	21 39	15 7	41 17	15 30	40 50	15 51	40 21
	21 42	16 17	41 53	16 39	41 25	17 0	40 57
	21 45	17 27	42 29	17 49	42 1	18 9	41 33
	21 48	18 38	43 6	18 59	42 37	19 19	42 9
	21 51	19 50	43 44	20 10	43 15	20 29	42 46
	21 54	21 3	44 23	21 22	43 54	21 40	43 25
	21 57	22 17	45 3	22 35	44 34	22 53	44 5
	22 0	23 32	45 44	23 50	45 14	24 7	44 45
	22 3	24 50	46 26	25 7	45 56	25 23	45 26
	22 6	26 10	47 10	26 26	46 39	26 42	46 8
	22 9	27 33	47 55	27 48	47 23	28 4	46 52
	22 12	29 0	48 41	29 14	48 9	29 27	47 37
	22 15	30 30	49 29	30 43	48 56	30 55	48 23
	22 18	32 5	50 18	32 16	49 44	32 27	49 11
	22 21	33 46	51 9	33 56	50 34	34 5	50 0
	22 24	35 34	52 3	35 42	51 26	35 49	50 50
	22 27	37 31	52 58	37 35	52 20	37 40	51 43
	22 30	39 37	53 56	39 38	53 17	39 39	52 38
	22 33	41 53	54 56	41 51	54 16	41 48	53 35
	22 36	44 21	56 0	44 17	55 18	44 11	54 35
	22 39	47 8	57 9	47 0	56 24	46 51	55 38
	22 42	50 32	58 25	50 10	57 34	49 50	56 45
	22 45	54 27	59 47	53 48	58 51	53 16	57 56
	22 48	E. 59 17	N. 61 17	E. 58 16	N. 60 15	E. 57 24	N. 59 14

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The mean duration of the annular phase on the central line is 2^m; the greatest is $2^m\ 4^s$; and the least $1^m\ 56^s$, about the times $20^h\ 48^m$ and $22^h\ 12^m$ respectively.

Nautical Almanac Office,
1866, *Dec.* 31.

On the Simultaneous Disappearance of Jupiter's Satellites in the year 1867. By G. B. Airy, Esq., Astronomer Royal.

It may be interesting to Members of the Society to be informed that there will be an opportunity in the year 1867 of observing that very rare phænomenon (hitherto observed, I believe, only twice, one of the observations being that of our Member the Rev. W. R. Dawes) of the simultaneous concealment of *Jupiter's* four satellites. On August 21 *Jupiter* will be without satellites for one hour and three-quarters; and, if the circumstances of the weather, &c., be favourable, all the four disappearances and the four reappearances may be observed in this country. I extract the following numbers from the *Nautical Almanac*:—

	Greenwich Mean Solar Time. h m	
1867, Aug. 21	8 14	The third satellite will enter on Jupiter's face. The Sun will not be very much depressed below the horizon, and Jupiter will not be very high, but this phænomenon may probably be seen. All these which follow may be seen well.
	9 9	The second satellite will be eclipsed in the shadow of Jupiter.
	9 28	The fourth satellite will enter on Jupiter's face.
	10 4	The first satellite will enter on Jupiter's face.
		The four satellites will then be invisible.
	11 49	The third satellite will pass off the disk of Jupiter.
	12 13	The second satellite will reappear from occultation behind the body of Jupiter (its emersion from the shadow having taken place behind the body).
	12 23	The first satellite will pass off the disk.
	13 54	The fourth satellite will pass off the disk.

There will, as usual, be several instances of simultaneous concealment of the three interior satellites; namely, August 14, $8^h\ 20^m$ to $8^h\ 33^m$ (difficult to observe); August 28, $11^h\ 47^m$ to